

Security Information.

17 December 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: NIE-78: The World Situation Over the Next Decade

1. The estimate may not be what you hoped for, but it is what we thought was not possible: a paper upon which there is substantial agreement in the intelligence community. The agency representatives deserve high praise for the patience and the care they have given the estimate.
2. State and JIG object to our description of the relation between the USSR and the West, as "a war situation" (paragraph 1), but they were unable to come up with an equally brief and more precise characterization.
3. JIG took a tentative reservation on a sentence in the middle of paragraph 15 (top of page 8) because the sentence did not include reference to the blocking off of the USSR from the achievement of its objectives. They may submit an alternative sentence.
4. There are two reservations on page 9, paragraph 17: one, an alternative reading of a sentence, by JIG; the other, an elaboration at the end, by Air Force. The text of the two changes is given in footnotes.
5. There are no conclusions because the paper is already very short for so extensive an estimate.

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SHERMAN KENT  
Assistant Director  
National Estimates

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17 December 1952

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*Not nearer what was wanted than  
expected -**Pretty good reading -**Sent around with covering**forward explaining "educated guessing"*SHERMAN KENT  
Assistant Director  
National Estimates

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Security Information

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/S/  
SHERMAN/KENT  
Assistant Director  
National Estimates

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